

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Canceled)

10. (New) A tubular bumper beam for a motor vehicle, said bumper beam comprising:

a first and a second end section, each end section being disposed proximate a respective end of said beam;

a center section which is disposed between said first and second end sections;

a first mounting section which is disposed between said center section and said first end;

a second mounting section which is disposed between said center section and said second end;

said beam defining a longitudinal axis passing from said first end section to said second end section, said axis being curved along a sweep line so that said beam is a curved beam, and said first end section and said second end section are not linearly aligned; said axis including a first inflection point disposed between said first mounting section and said central portion, and a second inflection point disposed between said second mounting section and said central portion so that said central section is displaced forward of said first and second mounting sections and said first and second end sections.

11. (New) The beam of claim 10, wherein said beam is a roll-formed beam.

12. (New) The beam of claim 10, wherein said beam is fabricated from steel.

13. (New) The beam of claim 12, wherein said steel has been subjected to a hardening process.

14. (New) The beam of claim 10, wherein the cross section of said beam along said axis is constant.

15. (New) The beam of claim 10, wherein the cross section of said beam along said axis is not constant.

16. (New) The beam of claim 10, wherein said beam is twisted along said axis.

17. (New) A bumper assembly, said bumper assembly comprising the beam of claim 10, and further including a fascia member which encloses at least a portion of said beam.